

When "Big Media" force their local stations to air or not air certain programs, it is stifling and suffocating the public's right to balanced views. When just a few big corporations control the airwaves, our citizens, journalism and our democratic system are not served. With Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, it is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I respectfully request the FCC to stop Sinclair from strong arming their local stations to air this program for their own interests. Thank you.